train was provided with the escort of 6 Railway Protection Force staff of which 3 RPF lost their life besides other passengers.

(c) The following steps are being taken to further enhance the security:

* The train has been made fully reserved *w.e.f.* 22.02.2007. Reservation of accommodation has been brought on computer network.

* Security checks like ckecking through sniffer dogs, metal detectors, anti sabotage checks of coaches etc. have been intensified.

* Passengers are being permitted to travel with valid documents only.

* Sleeper class coaches with cushioned berths have replaced general class coaches.

Track renewal programme

2088. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status in respect of track renewal programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that almost all the railway tracks need to be renewed; and

(c) what is the outlay involve in the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Every year planning is made to include track renewal works which becomes due for renewal in that year. For the year 2007-08 works costing Rs. 4663.5 crore have been identified and included in works programme 2007-08.

(b) No, Sir. Track renewal are carried out on age-cum condition basis criteria laid down in Indian Railways Permanent Way Manual and as per traffic needs. Nearly 3000 km. tracks become due for renewal on annual basis as per present level of traffic.

(c) Outlay involved in track renewal works included in works programme 2007-08 is Rs. 4663.5 crore (Gross).